



## UTAH EDUCATION AND TRAINING VOUCHERS

**FREE MONEY** for foster youth for career or technical training or college

### What is Utah Education & Training Vouchers (ETV)?

The Utah ETV grant program provides financial assistance from the State of Utah to current or former foster youth. The ETV program provides financial resources to assist the youth in completing post-secondary education and/or to assist in vocational training in order for the youth to obtain employment or to support the youth's overall employment goals. The goal of the ETV program is to assist youth who have been in foster care achieve a successful transition to self-sufficiency and adulthood.

The ETV provides funding to help the youth pay for college, career training, or technical training. ETV is a grant that does not need to be re-paid by the recipient. Current or former foster youth may also use the ETV grant to pay for childcare, rent, and/or transportation while they are attending school. The ETV grant is provided through both federal and state funds, and each year is subject to availability of funds.

### How much could I receive?

- An eligible young person may receive up to \$3,000 per fiscal year. The term "fiscal year" applies to the State fiscal year beginning on July 1 and ending the following year on June 30.

### How do I qualify?

To qualify, you must be an individual:

- Who is currently in foster care, who has not yet attained 21 years of age; or
- Who exited foster care after the age of 14, but while in foster care received 12 months of TAL services, **and** the court terminated reunification services with the biological parents while the individual was in foster care; or
- Who reached 18 years of age while in foster care; or
- Who was adopted from foster care after attaining 16 years of age and who has not yet attained 21 years of age; or
- Who are (or have been) under tribal court jurisdiction and meet the above eligibility criteria.

#### **DON'T HAVE A SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER?**

You need a Social Security number to submit the FAFSA. If you don't have one, contact DWS or DCFS

### How do I apply?

You must submit two forms: the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and the Utah ETV-360 Referral Form.

- Submit the FAFSA at **[www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov)** or download the PDF version for the FAFSA at **[www.federalstudentaid.ed.gov](http://www.federalstudentaid.ed.gov)**
- Contact a representative of Child and Family Services (DCFS) for the Utah ETV-360 referral and submit a signed form to DWS verifying your qualification.
- Schedule an appointment with your local Department of Workforce Services (DWS).

### What is required to receive your ETV Grant?

You must:

- Be accepted into a postsecondary school or program;
- Be enrolled in the postsecondary school or program at least half-time;
- Complete an individual educational plan or course plan with an academic advisor;
- Apply for and accept available financial aid from other sources before obtaining funding from the ETV Program;
- Transcript from high school or college;
- Complete the FAFSA application (this is mandatory).

### What happens after I apply?

- Child and Family Services (DCFS) will verify your foster youth status.
- DWS will review your 360-ETV application.
- Your school financial aid office will determine your financial aid eligibility.
- Once all of the above is completed, DWS will send you a letter regarding whether you were awarded the ETV.

### Where can I use my ETV Grant?

You can use your ETV Grant at any approved Utah institution of higher education, as well as schools in other states, such as:

- Community Colleges
- State Colleges and Universities
- Career and Technical Schools
- Independent and Private Colleges



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### What is an institution of higher education?

An institution of higher education, as defined by the Higher Education Act of 1965:

- Awards a Bachelor's Degree or is not less than a two-year program (Associate's Degree) that provides credit towards a degree; or
- Provides not less than one year of training towards gainful employment; or
- Is a vocational program that provides training for gainful employment and has been in existence for at least two years.

Such an institution must also meet all three of the following criteria:

- Admits as regular students only persons with a high school diploma or equivalent; or admits as regular students persons who are beyond the age of compulsory school attendance.
- Is a public, private, or non-profit institution.
- Is accredited or pre-accredited and is authorized to operate in the state where it is located.

DWS has an approved list of schools for Utah.

### Are there priority time frames to apply?

- |                    |                           |
|--------------------|---------------------------|
| ▪ <b>August 1</b>  | Fall semester / quarter   |
| ▪ <b>January 1</b> | Winter semester / quarter |
| ▪ <b>March 1</b>   | Spring semester / quarter |
| ▪ <b>June 1</b>    | Summer semester / quarter |



**STAY IN SCHOOL OR LOSE YOUR GRANT!**

**You must stay in school to keep your ETV Grant. If your enrollment falls below halftime or if you get bad grades, youth could lose your ETV Grant money.**

### What are "costs of attendance"?

Universities, colleges, and other programs have tools for calculating the cost of attendance for their school, and have some flexibility in determining costs of attendance for individual students. A government web site, [www.nces.ed.gov](http://www.nces.ed.gov), lists the standard tuition costs for any institution that receives federal Pell Grant funding.

Costs of attendance are defined under the Higher Education Act of 1965 and include:

- tuition, fees, and materials
- computers (must be a documented requirement from school/program)
- housing needs
- tutoring and internships
- travel expenses related from school to home
- childcare
- doctor co-payments and prescriptions
- student loans

### Will receiving ETV funds affect other federal financial aid that I am receiving?

No. The only requirement is that the total aid package, including the ETV, may not exceed the total cost of attendance.

### How do I continue my ETV Grant?

You may receive ETV funds as long as you are in good standing with the institution of higher education you are attending, and making progress towards the completion of your program or graduation. You must also:

- Earn no less than a 2.0 GPA or passing marks in an ETV approved technical or vocational program;
- Submit a FAFSA yearly;
- Meet regularly with your DWS caseworker;
- You may not drop below part-time status;
- Participation agreement and release, signed by you;
- Budget worksheet

### Who do I contact for more information?

- **Visit** the Just for Youth website at: [www.justforyouth.utah.gov](http://www.justforyouth.utah.gov)
- **Call** toll free 1-888-45-YOUTH (1-888-459-6884) for Young Adult Resource Network (YARN)
- A representative from **Child and Family Services** or **Department of Workforce Services**